IOC has detected a case of not accepting application for new gas connection by their LPG distributorship in Delhi in the month of April, 2007. Action against the erring distributorship was taken as per provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

Availability of Ethanol and Jatropha

†3062. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that required quantity of both Ethanol and Jatropha (Ratanjot) to be mixed with petrol and diesel to be sold to the consumer is available in the country;

if so, the details thereof;

the procurement price of both these products for oil companies;

whether this mixture affects the prices of petrol and diesel; and

if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) As against industry's requirement of 180 crore litres of ethanol for 5% Ethanol Blended Petrol programme for a period of three years, the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been able to contract 140.4 crore litres and they have so far procured 29.5 crore litres under the programme (as on 31.3.08). However, the levies/taxes on ethanol imposed in certain States has affected procurement of ethanol in those States as it becomes commercially unviable.

Presently, the procurement price of ethanol ex-factory ranges form Rs. 17250.15 per kl to Rs. 21500 per kl and that of bio-diesel is Rs. 26.50 per litre.

and (e) No. The selling price of ethanol blended petrol is the same as that of petrol. The selling price of bio-diesel is also proposed to be at the same level as that of diesel. However, marketing of bio-diesel is yet to commence.

Crude import

3063. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether the prices of Indian basket of crude has recently crossed the US $ 100 mark;

whether the indigenous production of crude and gas has slackened due to nonavailability of rigs required for the on-going block explorations; and

what other measures are being taken to restrict the quantum of crude imports into India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. The per barrel price of Indian basket of crude has crossed the US $100 mark on 10th March, 2008. In the month of March, 2008, the average price of Indian Basket of crude was US $ 99.76/- bbl.

† **Original** notice of the question was received in Hindi.